AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows, substituting any amended claim(s) for the corresponding pending claim(s):

1.   (Previously Presented) A call handling method comprising:

receiving an indication of an incoming call to a destination number ("DN") associated with a subscriber line;

initiating an outgoing call to said subscriber line;

accessing a database for a record corresponding to said DN;

determining, based upon information associated with said record, whether call forwarding is active; and

in response to determining that call forwarding is active, initiating one or more outgoing calls to one or more forwarding numbers while leaving said incoming call unanswered.

2.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising, in response to a one of said one or more outgoing calls being answered, bridging said incoming call with said answered outgoing call.

3.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2 further comprising, prior to said bridging, qualifying a party answering said outgoing call as a party entitled to receive said incoming call.

4.   (Canceled)

5.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said accessing said database further comprises locating said one or more forwarding numbers in said record.

6.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5 further comprising, where none of said one or more outgoing calls is answered within a predetermined time, accessing said record for an action to take in respect of said incoming call.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein said action is forwarding to voice mail and, in response, forwarding said incoming call to voice mail.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein said qualifying comprises requesting an input from said party.

9.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8 wherein said accessing said database further comprises locating said one or more forwarding numbers in said record, and wherein said input is compared with an entry in said record.

10.   (Original) The method of claim 3 further comprising, where said party answering fails to qualify, bridging said incoming call with a voice mail box associated with said DN.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising, where none of said one or more outgoing calls is answered within a predetermined time, bridging said incoming call with a voice mail box associated with said DN.

12. (Previously Presented) A method of redirecting an incoming telephone call from a calling party to a subscriber comprising:

sensing said incoming telephone call having a DN associated with a subscriber line of said subscriber;

initiating a first outgoing call to said subscriber line;

accessing a database for a record corresponding to said incoming telephone call;

determining, based upon information associated with said record, whether call forwarding is active, and in response to determination that call forwarding is active, retrieving forwarding location information from said database;

locating said subscriber by initiating one or more forwarding outgoing telephone calls to corresponding one or more forwarding locations; and

answering and connecting said incoming telephone call to said subscriber, if said subscriber answers a one of said first outgoing call to said subscriber line and said one or more forwarding outgoing telephone calls.

13.   (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium comprising computer-executable instructions which, when performed by a processor in a telephone system, cause said processor to:

receive an indication of an incoming call to a destination number ("DN") associated with a subscriber line;

initiating an outgoing call to said subscriber line;

access a database for a record corresponding to said DN;

determine, based upon information associated with said record, whether call forwarding is active; and

in response to determining that call forwarding is active, initiate one or more outgoing calls to one or more forwarding numbers while leaving said incoming call unanswered.

14.   (Previously Presented) The medium of claim 13 comprising computer-executable instructions which, when performed by a processor in a telephone system, cause said processor to in response to a one of said one or more outgoing calls being answered, bridge said incoming call with said answered outgoing call.

15.   (Previously Presented) The medium of claim 14 comprising computer-executable instructions which, when performed by a processor in a telephone system, cause said processor to: prior to causing said bridge, qualify a party answering said outgoing call as a party entitled to receive said incoming call.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously Presented) The medium of claim 13 comprising computer-executable instructions which, when performed by a processor in a telephone system, cause said processor to access said database and locate said one or more forwarding numbers in said record.

18. (Previously Presented) The medium of claim 17 comprising computer-executable instructions which, when performed by a processor in a telephone system, cause said processor to, where none of said one or more outgoing calls is answered within a predetermined time, access said record for an action to take in respect of said incoming call.

19. (Original) The medium of claim 18 wherein said action is forwarding to voice mail and, in response, forwarding said incoming call to voice mail.

20. (Original) The medium of claim 15 wherein said party is qualified by requesting an input from said party.

21. (Previously Presented) The medium of claim 20 wherein said one or more outgoing calls are initiated by accessing said database and locating said one or more forwarding numbers in said record and wherein said input is compared with an entry in said record.

22.   (Previously Presented) The medium of claim 15 comprising computer-executable instructions

which, when performed by a processor in a telephone system, cause said processor to, where said

party answering fails to qualify, bridge said incoming call with a voice mail box associated with said

DN.

23.   (Previously Presented) The medium of claim 13 comprising computer-executable instructions

which, when performed by a processor in a telephone system, cause said processor to, where none

of said one or more outgoing calls is answered within a predetermined time, bridge said incoming

call with a voice mail box associated with said DN.